



The International Space Research Park™ (ISRP) at NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center (KSC) is a partnership between NASA and the State of Florida to build an environment for world-class research and technology development performed through the collaborative efforts of industry, academia, and government.

Introduction

As KSC searched for a way to replace the Korean War-era hangar that had for years served as the processing laboratory for its life science experiments aboard the Space Shuttle, it engaged Florida leaders in discussing a bold new partnership to design, construct, and operate a Space Experiment Research and Processing Laboratory (SERPL) to serve as the primary gateway to the International Space Station for its scientific experiment payloads.

Florida Governor Jeb Bush and a group of legislative leaders offered to NASA a commitment of \$30 million in state funds to build the lab that the space station needed, and to lease the lab's capacity to NASA's experiment processing contractor to perform station payload work. In addition, the lab will host Florida's university researchers and their colleagues.

NASA and Florida leaders saw this laboratory as the start of something bigger, an opportunity to expand KSC and the state's resident research and development capabilities, recruit intellectual capital, and attract private investment to establish a robust space industry sector willing to locate here permanently.

Thus, the concept was born to establish a space research park with the SERPL as its first project and a powerful magnet for additional projects that could lessen NASA's cost while helping it meet its mission, and bring both private investment and new high tech employment into the Florida economy.



As ground was broken on the SERPL project, KSC and the Florida Space Authority (FSA) were initiating a year-long concept development study. The study scope included performance of a detailed market assessment, development and analysis of the business plan, and preliminary land use planning for the ISRP. The study was completed in May 2002. The findings indicated that the concept was feasible and would allow for the development of some 2 million square feet of commercial and laboratory space and approximately 10,000 jobs within a 20-year build-out.

Key Concepts

Except for SERPL, the park will be "outside the gate" to allow for full 24 hour access to park tenants. The park would provide a total environment to attract, foster, and grow R&D, technology development, and commercialization and would include a strong academic presence. Commercial practices for construction and operation would prevail. Every attempt to minimize environmental impacts will be made. Environmentally friendly practices in both construction and operations would be used.

Alternatives to be Addressed

There are two alternative locations on Kennedy Space Center being addressed by the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Alternative 1 is the area immediately south of the KSC Visitors Complex. Alternative 2 is south and east of the Alternative 1 (north east of KSC's south gate). The EIS will also address the No Action Alternative, which would be that of not allowing the State to develop the ISRP at any location on KSC.

The existing land cover for the two locations on KSC are as follows:

Alternative 1:

- 255 Acres of citrus
- 39 Acres of wetlands
- 20 Acres of Australian Pine and other disturbed habitat

Alternative 2:

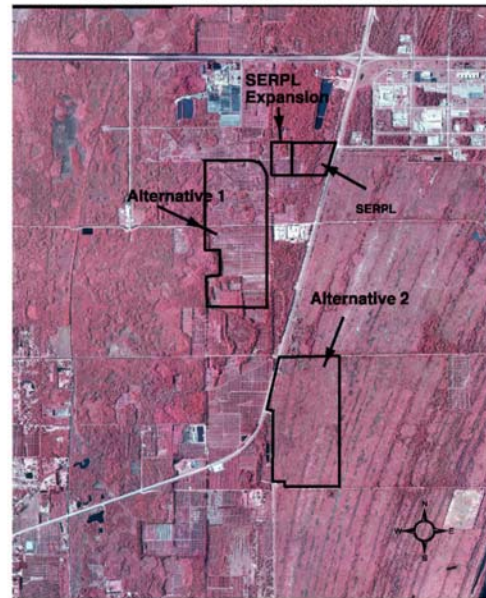
- 270 Acres of scrub habitat
- 45 Acres of wetlands

The EIS will, at a minimum, address the following areas:

- Air pollution
- Water pollution
- Waste generation and management
- Biological resources including, uplands, wetlands and wildlife
- Cultural resources
- Infrastructure such as utilities, roads and communications
- Traffic and transportation
- Economics

While all these will be fully analyzed, the areas for greatest impacts appear to be associated with potential for increased traffic loads to the existing road systems and economic inputs to the region. While the latter issue may be considered a positive impact, it may have implications beyond the area immediately surrounding KSC.

Alternative Locations for the ISRP



Schedule

The first Draft of the EIS is scheduled for release in late Spring to early Summer of 2003. The Final EIS is scheduled to be published in the Fall of 2003. A Record of Decision (ROD) would be published before the end of 2003.

To provide comments to NASA regarding the issues to be addressed during the preparation of the EIS or to obtain additional information, the following options are available:

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<http://eis.ksc.nasa.gov/index.cfm>

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